

Public Hearing Testimony on House Bill 6816

Speaker: Winston A. Campbell

Bill Position: Opposition

Madam Chair / Mr. Chairman, Finance Committee Members

I am Winston Campbell and I live in the town of Bloomfield, Connecticut

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on the proposed House Bill 6816 "An Act Concerning Microstamping-enabled pistols, Raising the age to purchase ammunition and restricting the sale and possession of body armor".

My testimony is in opposition to this House Bill.

1. Concerning Microstamping-Enabled Pistols

a. Even if the technology exists it is not clear how this would assist in the reduction of firearm violence. This bill is specific to semi-automatic pistols. What would happen if someone commits a firearm related crime using a revolver which would not have to be micro stamped? Even if a revolver is micro stamped the cases are manually removed from the cylinder and can be pocketed and not left lying around.

b. How would this bill impact firearms that have been sold prior to enactment of this bill, not micro stamped and legally owned?

c. Not every firearms dealer is a gunsmith. There would likely be a limited number of people who would be able to service a micro stamped firearm as required by this bill. This would limit availability of such services to firearm owners.

d. As a licensed gun dealer not being able to sell a micro stamped verified semiautomatic pistol would severely impact availability of firearms to legally licensed residents. It is not clear how many (if any) firearms manufacturers make a micro stamp enabled pistol.

e. If a fired case is reloaded and used in a different pistol by a different person there can be multiple imprints on the shell casing; this may not help to solve a crime. A person who is likely to commit a firearm related crime could pick up fired shell casings from a legal firearm owner at a gun range. They could leave them at the scene of a crime and thus cause innocent people to be suspected of a firearm related crime.

f. The micro stamp can be worn down over time and thus not be useful. After legal purchase of a micro stamped firearm, the firing pin can be replaced with one that is not stamped. The breech face can be altered to obscure the micro stamp.

g. A majority of firearm related violence in Connecticut is committed by repeat offenders. They are not able to legally purchase a firearm. They could obtain a firearm that was purchased in another state that does not require microstamping.

2. Concerning Raising the Age of Sale of Ammunition

a. There does not seem to be a need for a specific statute restricting the sale of ammunition or a magazine. There is already a law requiring a certificate to purchase ammunition. You would just need to revise the age of issuance of this certificate.

3. Restricting the Sale and Possession of Body Armor

a. There does not seem to be a reason for this restriction. There has not been any data presented to the public to indicate that people committing firearm related violence use body armor in the commission of their crimes. Thus, how would body armor restriction reduce firearm related violence.

b. In fact there would be a benefit for the public to be able to have body armor. It could protect them from injury in the event of being involved in a firearm related incident. Thus, being able to possess body armor can reduce injury and death related to firearm violence.